

MEMO-7736

18 April 1949

Chief LBS

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Prof. Gerhard von MERTZ

MEMO-877; MEMO-1006; MEMO-5291; WASH 1807

PUNCHED

13 JUL 1981

1. On 5 January 1949 this office sent to you in MEMO-5291 what appeared to be the only two important traces on Subject which either had not originated in Munich or had been marked for Munich distribution. Subject's file does contain prolific references to memos and documents in the files of Operations "Tact", "Tailspin" and "Teresa" and to documents marked "with H. Reper". The "Tailspin" and "Teresa" files were sent to FBI in May or June 1947 at the request of Wess H. Lane. However, this office knew that a number of items on the Georgians were retained here. During the past week we have made an exhaustive search of our own files and of old correspondence in the registry, and have unearthed the following items, which should be of considerable interest. Even only a small portion of the material refers to Subject, we have copied out that portion.

(a) From the file of Georges Y. SKRATYNSKI, a German of Georgian ancestry and a friend of Michel LEBIA, employed by GSS in 1945 (document dated 9 October 1945 and unnumbered): SKRATYNSKI, who knew LEBIA in Berlin during the war, claimed that through latter's valuable police connections, he was able to meet Dr. Gerhard von MERTZ, and supplied him with travel papers. This was later denied by von MERTZ.

(b) Letter dated 17 July 1945, numbered "L-003-717" mentions Subject as picked up by Seventh Army along with a number of Georgians. (Copy attached).

(c) Two documents from folder of Operation "Tact", both unnumbered. Only information given is that Subject was interrogated by Op. "Tact" on 26 July 1945. The documents are: a curriculum vitae of Subject, and a two and one-third page biography. (Both attached). The "Tact" file also states that "File 2" contains excerpts from von MERTZ's diary, and a translation of "Die Voelker der Sowjetunion"; unfortunately, to date we can locate no trace of either and they may have been sent to Washington. However, we are continuing our search.

(d) We are also forwarding to you the "Tact" interrogations of Michael ALCHIBAYA, Givi GABLIANI and Alexandre TOUMAYA, Georgians intimately associated with Subject.

REGISTRY COPY

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ABSTRACT INDEX
DATE 13 Apr 49

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(e) Unnumbered letter dated 31 October 1945 from Specialist Unit 655, stating that Subject had expressed his willingness to work for OSS. At that time, it was suggested that Subject work in an undercover job in Berlin, "since he is well acquainted with the minority questions in Russia and knows the White Russian and other minority circles in Berlin." Subject reported at that time to be in Goettingen. (Copy attached).

(f) Folder from Operation "Ruppert", in which Lt. Teper gives recommendations made on basis of "Fast" interrogations. In this file are (1) letter (LS-003-1022) dated 22 October 1945, from Specialist Unit 655 again stating that "MENDE could be of great value to us as an agent"; answer from Lt. Teper to this letter, dated 31 October 1945 (LS-003/5-1022) stating: "While there is little doubt that MENDE would work for the Americans, there is also little doubt that he would be an untrustworthy contact unless the Americans would agree to swallow fully his ideology and approach in the handling of the USSR problem"; a letter from Subject himself (LS-003-913), dated 13 September 1945, to Mr. Stephen Bullos (CIC). (Copies attached)

(g) From S-SITS-648 (BX-625), dated 30 January 1946: Michel MENDE recently approached OSS Bern with idea of making his Georgian chain available. Claimed never interested in political activity until German army arrived in Paris. Shortly thereafter, MENDE was approached by a Mr. BRAUER, who said he had been recommended for collaboration by various Georgians in Berlin. Apparently MENDE needed little convincing, for 1941 saw him in Berlin. MENDE mentioned his principal contacts there as Dr. GRIFFIN of SS I.S., Dr. WILHELM of Abwehr, and Prof. Gerhard von HUBER of the Rosenberg Ministry. (MENDE states that a Georges METREVALI, now in Munich working for the Americans is, in reality, von MENDE.)"

(h) Letter (LS-003-211), dated 11 February 1946 from AG-2, WUZO to AG-43 Munich stating "a good source in Switzerland disclosed that Professor Gerhard von MENDE of the Rosenberg Ministry is in Munich, at the present time working for the Americans under the name of Georges METREVALI." (Copy attached).

(i) Letter (X-8486) dated 14 October, giving opinion on Subject by S. EASTMAN: "Von MENDE was SCHERER's specialist on all Turkish tribes in Russia and has a mass of information on German Fifth Column work in the Caucasus and Crimea". This letter makes reference to correspondence of 3 May 1945, which he cannot locate. It also refers to CLOTH's report WSC-321 of 2 August 1946, in which AG-43 states: "Nothing is known here either on the person of Prof. MENDE or on his use by the Americans." However, we have a file card on WSC-321 of same date which states: "Gerhard von MENDE; Ostministerium; reported used by US; presented by Georgians." (Copy attached)

(j) Letter (003-1115) from SC Amson to SC Washington, dated 15 November 1946, which states "No further information is available regarding the present utilization of Subject's services by the Americans, except that he is not in any way connected with the War Department Detachment". An excerpt from Lt. Teper's recommendation follows:

(k) Letter MSH-003-404, dated 4 April, which discusses Subject's connections with the British. "In September 1946, von MENDE and ALBIBAYAN are said to have visited a British officer in Kreisensen, Hannover, and forwarded him a list of persons whom they proposed for cooperations with British." Info from recent Rusty report. (Copy attached)